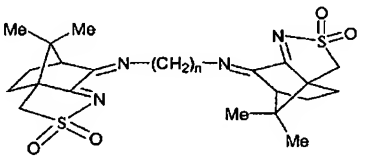
IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12. (canceled)

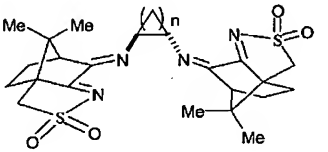
13. (original) A chiral chelating agent having a formula (13) as follows and an enantiomeric isomer thereof:



(13)

wherein n is an integer between 0 and 4.

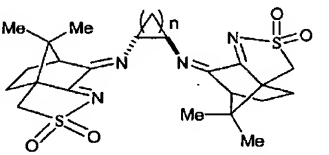
14. (original) A chiral chelating agent having a formula (14) as follows and an enantiomeric isomer thereof:



(14)

wherein n is an integer between 0 and 4.

15. (original) A chiral chelating agent having a formula (15) as follows and an enantiomeric isomer thereof:

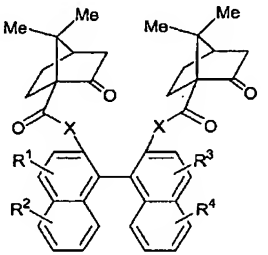


(15)

wherein n is an integer between 0 and 4.

16. (currently amended) A chiral chelating agent having a formula (16) as follows and an a

diastereomeric or an enantiomeric isomer thereof:



(16)

wherein X represents an oxygen atom or a nitrogen atom; R^1, R^2 R^3 and R^4 represent H, methyl, ethyl, a primary, secondary or tertiary straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group having 3-7 carbon atoms, a heterocyclic or aromatic group, an aromatic group substituted at the 2-, 3- or 4-position, an aromatic-like group, a naphthyl or naphthyl-derived group or the above groups substituted with at least a halogen.

Claims 17-23. (canceled)